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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application

Joseph Peter Hubert Maria MERTENS

Serial No.: To be assigned (National Phase of PCT/EP03/03925 filed 14 April 2003)

Filed: October 15, 2004

For: BARRIER ELEMENT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fee, relative to the claims in the annex to the  
International Preliminary Examination Report, please amend the above-identified application as  
follows: